



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
**Office of the Governor**  
*Statewide Interoperable Communications System*  
*Executive Committee*

MARK A. COOPER  
INTERIM CHAIRMAN  
(225) 925-7500  
(225) 925-7501 - Fax

**STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2008**

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at Louisiana State Police Headquarters, First Floor, Conference Room B, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Interim Chairman Mark Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The roll was called by Major Adam Shilling, and a quorum was established.

**Committee Members Present:**

Mark Cooper (Interim chair)  
Col. Eric Sivula  
Joe Drago  
Maj. Joey Broussard  
F. Derald Kirkland  
Lloyd Miller  
Lt. Col. Robert Morris  
Kim Manning (Designee)  
  
Tonya Ozene  
  
Col. Mike Edmonson  
Lt. Col. Ralph Mitchell (Designee)  
Chief Freddy Drennan  
Richard Gremillion  
  
Col. Kenneth Hughes  
Sgt. Michael Murphy  
Daniel Scott  
Eric Deroche (Designee)  
Lee Hebert  
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion  
Milligan, Donald (Designee)  
Robert Jump  
Thomas Thibeaud

**Representing Agency:**

GOSHEP  
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections Services  
Dept. of Transportation and Development  
Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries  
DOA and Office of Information Technology  
LA Fire Chief's Association  
LA National Guard  
LA Senate Select Comm. on Homeland Security  
LA House of Representatives Special Committee on Homeland Security  
LA State Police  
LA State Police  
Police Chiefs' Association  
Regional Parish Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Directors' Committee  
Region 1 Representative  
Region 2 Representative  
Region 3 Representative  
Region 3 Representative  
Region 4 Representative  
Region 6 Representative  
Region 6 Representative  
Region 7 Representative  
Region 9 Representative

**Guest list: See Appendix A**

Mr. Cooper's introductory remarks summarized the items for discussion as: the need to discuss the short range and long range interoperability needs of the users of the

Statewide system and Senate Bill 788. Mr. Cooper also recognized the great strides made by the SIEC under the leadership of former Chairman Rizwan Ahmed.

### **Commendation of Mr. Ahmed**

Richard Gremillion moved, and Eric Suvula seconded, that the Committee submit a letter of commendation to Mr. Ahmed for his leadership as chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of minutes—February 27, 2008**

On motion of Daniel Scott, seconded by Eric Sivula, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2008 meeting.

### **Consultant report on the Status of Louisiana Interoperability**

Brant Mitchell briefed the report of Chief Mike Morgan who conducted a brief assessment of the state of interoperability communications in Louisiana. He conducted focus group interviews with key stakeholder groups, and viewed the Louisiana National Guard Disaster Response Exercise on April 5, 2008.

Briefing slides of findings and recommendations are located at Appendix B.

On the motion of Richard Gremillion, seconded by Eric Deroche, the Committee voted to accept Chief Morgan's report.

### **Status of PSIC Grant Application and the DHS Review of Louisiana SCIP**

Mr. Mitchell also reported on the status of the PSIC grant application. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has approved the grant, and the State will develop a more detailed expenditure plan. Currently, GOHSEP is completing a statewide needs assessment to determine where the money can best be spent. He also shared positive peer reviewer comments on the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).

On the motion of Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, seconded by Eric Deroche, the Committee voted unanimously to commend the National Guard staff for their superior work on the SCIP.

### **System Manager's Report**

Jeya Selvaratnam, presented the system manager's report on the status of the Smartzone and P25 systems, and presented statistics on system usage. Col. Edmonson initiated a discussion of the status of redundancy systems throughout the State. Mr. Selvaratnam reviewed the procedure for joining the P25 system.

Additional topics included: 1) The Committee discussed the desirability of having specifying an authority to assign statewide interoperability channels for specific events. No authority currently exists. The concern was that one agency could plan the use of a statewide talkgroup and then find another agency or incident command on that channel. The Committee concluded that first responders were better served by allowing talkgroups to remain open until needed for incidents, and took no further action. 2) The Committee discussed assisting small jurisdictions with expenses associated with dispatch consoles

capable of fully utilizing the capabilities of the P25 system. The Committee retained its previous decision that consoles were the responsibility of local jurisdictions.

Briefing slides are at Appendix C.

### **Budget Report**

Christina Dayries presented the budget report. Key issues included the loss of funds from the SIEC to the State's general funds due to a failure to commit those funds in the fiscal year they were appropriated, and the need to commit funds for this year before the end of the fiscal year.

Budget report is at Appendix D.

### **Motions Stemming from Budget Report**

On the motion of Thomas Thiebaud, seconded by Freddy Drennan, the Committee voted to fund the Region 9 JPS Raytheon Proposal previously approved by the SIEC.

The Technical Sub-committee scheduled a meeting on May 7, 2008 to evaluate proposals to commit additional monies before the end of the fiscal year.

Robert Jump moved, and Eric Deroche seconded, to require all applications for funding to be turned in to Richard Silverman by 5:00 PM May 6, 2008 for consideration by the Technical Sub-committee. Eric Deroche moved, and Ken Hughes seconded, for an amendment to this motion that if the money were not committed to projects in Regions 6 or 7, that it would be committed to infrastructure build-out as specified by the Technical Sub-committee. The amendment delegated authority to commit the money to the Technical Sub-committee. The motion carried as amended over the objection of Richard Gremillion.

### **Discussion of Senate Bill 788**

Mr. Cooper asked for discussion on Senate Bill 788 which will establish a framework for interoperability and related issues in law.

The key issues were: 1) 9-11 call centers had no representation on sub-committees formed under draft Senate Bill 788. 2) Tribal authorities also had no representation. 3) Regional and disciplinary representatives were concerned about the lack of representation of regional and disciplinary organizations in the unified command group. They were specifically concerned that authority to commit money was withheld to the unified command group.

On the motion of Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, seconded by Freddy Drennen, the Committee voted to propose changing the draft legislation so that the interoperability sub-committee included representatives of organizations of 9-11 call centers and tribal entities, and had greater authority to commit funds for interoperability purposes.

**New Chair of Technical Subcommittee**

On the motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Daniel Scott, the Committee voted to name Jeya Selvaratnam chair of the Technical Sub-committee to replace Chief Black.

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, seconded by Mike Murphy, the Committee voted to adjourn.

DRAFT

**Statewide Interoperable Communications System Executive Committee**

**5/2/08**

Name	Organization
1 Christian Dymus	LSP
2 Robert Trump	Region 7.
3 Kim Ford	LIRC Wireless
4 FREDDIE MORRIS	LA NG
5 Vance Singlet	CP Jordan
6 David Harris	MOTOROLA
7 TRAVIS JOHNSON	GOHSEP
8 Dennis Blackwell	Motorola
9 ERIC SIMULA	DOE
10 Jan Rodrigue	DOC
11 Joe Drago	DOTD
12 Don Drago	Region 6 Avoyelles 94
13 Ralph Mitchell	LSP
14 LTC Robert Fink	LA NG
15 JOE LIVINGSTON	OTM
16 Rick Carter	Motorola
17 Lou Alessich	Motorola
18 Larry Landry	St Martin Parish SO/OHSE,
19 Mike Murphy	BRPD - Region 2
20 Dick Greenhill	Regional AS Districts
21 John Collins	
22 Keith McDunall	Raytheon
23 Lloyd Miller	LFCA
24 Michael Edmonson	LSP

Name	Organization
25 F. Donald Kirkland	DOA/OIT
26 Freddy D. Brown	Chief of Police
27 Eric Deroche	Region 3
28 Sonya Wiley	Region 6
29 Bobbie O'Brien	Houma PD
30 Jay Beatman	WBC
31 Lee Hebert	ACADIA OHSEP
32 ROBERT HALE	EAST BATON ROUGE SHERIFF/REG 2
33 <del>TOMMY O'CONNOR</del>	LA House of Represent
34 Daniel J. Scott	Region 3 - Houma Fire Dep
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	